Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05223 271741Z ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 /024 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8636

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 5223

E.O. 11652: N/A TATS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: DERESTRICTION OF GATT DOCUMENTS

REF: STATE 144421

1. GATT SECRETARIAT PROCEDURES FOR DERESTRICTING DOCUMENTS ARE LISTED IN GATT DOCUMENT L/2737 OF 25 JANUARY 1967. SPEC DOCUMENTS LISTED IN REFTEL ARE NOT AMONG GATT DOCUMENTS DECLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO REGULAR SCHEDULE AND IN PRINCIPLE REMAIN RESTRICTED. DOCUMENTS IN THE SPEC SERIES, WHICH ARE SPECIAL SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY WORKING PARTIES, OFTEN BECOME INCOPRORATED IN OTHER GATT DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO DERESTRICTION. THIS IS THE CASE IN A NUMBER OF THOSE DOCUMENTS LISTED REFTEL.

2. THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN OTHER GATT DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DERESTRICTED:

SPEC (68) 31 CONTAINED IN L/3039

SPEC (68) 55 CONTAINED IN L/3039

SPEC (68) 79 U.S. DRAFT OUTLINE WHICH FORMED BASIS

FOR AGREED OUTLINE IN L/3125

SPEC (68) 98 CONTAINED IN L/3125

SPEC (69) 41 CONTAINS DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF WORKING

PARTY. A WORKING DOCUMENT THAT WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE WP REPORT.

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SPEC (69) 94 CONTAINED IN L/3272.

3. THERE IS NO PROCEDURE FOR DERESTRICTING THE REMAINING DOCUMENTS. THE SECRETARIAT INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL OF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE FACTUAL LISTINGS OF GOVERNMENT BORDER TAX PRACTICES AND SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM. OTHERS ARE U.S. STATEMENTS AND ARE, IN THE SECRE-

TARIAT'S WORDS, U.S. PROPERTY. FOR TWO OF THE DOCUMENTS, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD SEEK PERMISSION FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WP BEFORE RELEASING THEM. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE: SPEC (69) 49, WHICH CONTAINS AN EXAMINATION OF THE BORDER TAX PRACTICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND SPEC (69) 89 WHICH IS THE SUBMISSION TO THE WP BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. SPEC '69) 159, ALTHOUGH A U.S. STATEMENT, IS THE U.S. REPLY TO SPEC '69) 89, THE EC STATEMENT AND CONTAINS REFERENCES TO THE LATTER.

4. DOCUMENTS WHICH TECHNICALLY HAVE NOT BEEN DE-RESTRICTED BUT WHICH, IN THE SECRETARIAT WORDS SHOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THEIR FACTUAL NATURE ARE: SPEC (68) 134 -- LIST OF BORDER TAX PRACTICES

SPEC (69) 79 -- LIST OF MEASURES.

- 5. REMAINING TWO DOCUMENTS SPEC (69) 98 AND SPEC (69) 159 ARE U.S. STATEMENTS AND PRESUMABLY IT IS OUR DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO RELEASE THEM. AS NOTED ABOVE, ONE OF THESE DOCUMENTS, SPEC (69) 159, CONTAINS REFERENCES TO THE EC STATEMENT.
- 6. MISSING DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED. SORENSON

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